



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.52

Subject: Independent Living Services Available To
Youth/Young Adults 14-21 Years of Age

Supersedes: DCS 16.52, 09/01/02

Local Policy: No

Local Procedures: No

Training Required: No

Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes

Approved by:

Effective date: 09/01/02

Revision date: ¹01/01/05

Application

To All Department of Children's Services Employees

Authority: TCA 37-5-106; Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

Policy

DCS shall provide a continuum of developmentally appropriate Independent Living Services for youth/young adults. Eligible Youth must receive a full array of developmentally appropriate services to prepare them for independent living.

Procedures

- A. Available services**
1. Through the use of *Chafee Foster Care Independent Living* funds and other state and federal funds, the Department of Children's Services will ensure that a continuum of developmentally appropriate services are available for foster and former foster youth starting at age 14 and ending at age 21. The delivery of these services will intensify as youth approach age 17 through age 18.
 2. Services must be available to assist youth in their preparation for adulthood. These services include, but are

¹ For the period of 07/1/04 to 12/31/04, youth receiving services under existing policy will be grand fathered in under revised policy effective 01/01/05.

not limited to the following:

- a) Assisting youth in obtaining a high school diploma;
- b) Assisting youth in obtaining a G.E.D. before they leave care; if a high school diploma is not feasible;
- c) Assisting youth with career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention;
- d) Providing training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and fiscal management skills;
- e) Providing preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutritional education, and pregnancy prevention);
- f) Providing services such as tutoring to increase educational outcomes;
- g) Providing training and employment services;
- h) Providing preparation for post secondary training and education;
- i) Providing youth opportunities to have connections with mentors and positive interactions with adults;
- j) Providing financial, housing, counseling, employment education, and other appropriate supports and services for young people ages 18 to 21 years formerly in foster care, voluntary/post custody status.

B. Continuum of developmentally appropriate services

1. The following services will be delivered in accordance with DCS Policy. In order to prevent a duplication of services, coordination of services will need to occur at the local level. All young adults, ages 14 to 21, who meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible to receive the following standard menu of services based on their individual strengths and needs. The developmentally based continuum of services is as follows:
 - a) Life Books, if the goal is adoption
 - b) Life skill assessment and Independent Living Plan on an annual basis
 - c) Money management training

- d) Opportunities to practice skills
 - e) Self-care training
 - f) Social development training
 - g) Special incentives for completing goals
 - h) Wellness, educational, and recreational supports
 - i) Work and study habits training
 - j) Youth Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
 - k) Youth Discharge – Community Resource Handbook
 - l) Assistance in obtaining part-time employment
 - m) Driver's education
 - n) Education assessment for the purpose of a GED track
 - o) Employment-readiness training
 - p) Information on services available for youth who age-out or voluntarily continue to receive services
 - q) Leadership activities
 - r) Preparation for postsecondary education
 - s) Resource information
 - t) Targeted focus on transitional planning beginning at age 17
 - u) Positive Start-Transitional living grant (Provided by the Department at the point the youth leaves custody at age 18 or voluntary services status from age 18 up to age 21)
2. Assistance in obtaining part-time employment
- a) Continued case management
 - b) Driver's education
 - c) Education assessment for the purpose of a GED track
 - d) Employment readiness training

- e) Housing assistance through authorized housing options
 - f) Leadership activities
 - g) Limited funds for car insurance: Must own vehicle, provide proof of ownership, obtain 3 quotes from 3 different insurance companies and owner's name must be on insurance policy.
 - h) Limited funds for vehicle maintenance and repairs
 - i) Postsecondary funding for tuition, books and supplies, and housing
 - j) Postsecondary start-up grants
 - k) Preparation for postsecondary education
 - l) Resource information
 - m) Transitional living grant at the end of voluntary services
 - n) Transportation assistance
3. All youth, ages 18 through 21 that were adopted at age 16 or after will be able to receive postsecondary assistance through the Central Office, Independent Living Program based on their individual needs.

Forms

None

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-100

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-101

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-102

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-105

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-106

DCS Practice Model Standard – 8-107

Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>Chafee Foster Care Independent Living (CFCIP):</i>	A grant to assist States and localities in establishing and carrying out programs designed to assist foster youth likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and youth who have left foster care because they attained 18 years of age, have not yet attained 21 years of age, to make the transition from foster care to independent living.